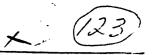
## INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of St-+e



Action

Control: 17457
Rec'd: October 23, 1962
ARA
Info

FROM: Caracas

TO: Secretary of State

G SP NO: 500, October 23, 6 p.m.

L H SAL

DEPARTMENT PASS ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCARIB, POLAD CINCLANT

CA P EUR Vast majority Venezuelans appear wholeheartedly back President IO Betancourt's strong support US initiative on Cuba. DAC - there some minor demonstrations this morning at Central P University, city as whole has had "business as usual" atmos-USIA phere. Embassy (and other USG installations) continue under NSC reinforced guard. Consulate Maracaibo reported this morning INR that city calm. CIA

NSA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR

President met with AD, COPEI, and CTV leaders this morning and with military this afternoon. Embassy has no report as yet re results. Foreign Minister publicly supported US position in statement today.

RMR Military all ranks and services "exuberant" and oft-stated remark was "at last".

AD leaders have told Embassy officers Kennedy speech was "very good", "magnificient" and that 90 percent Venezuelans pleased with it. One AD Senator on own initiative called Embassy officer to state extreme left contact had expressed knowledge of hemisphere wide Communist party all out attack on US interests "when signal given" and claimed there no nuclear weapons on Cuba yet but that Soviet convoy now on way with them.

Cuban exile leaders unanimous in their "glee" over US program exile radio station has been broadcasting speech continuously all day. Several exile leaders have already left for meeting

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## CONFIDENTIAL

-2- 500, October 23, 6 p.m. from Caracas

with Miami Council.

Embassy telephone operator has received considerable number calls, all but five of which were laudatory.

Armed forces not on alert and no plans do so unless local situation requires. (They have just been restored normal duty status following two weeks partial and full alert.)

STEWART

ba

Note: Relayed Polad Cincarib and Polad Cinclant, 10/23/62.